

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 COME-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 /110 W

-----120729 131232Z /15

O 122010Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5129

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1004

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ST

SUBJ: OIL DEPOT AND REFINERY PROJECT, ST. LUCIA

REF: BRIDGETOWN 957, STATE 080269

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ANSWERS QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL.
AMBASSADOR OBTAINED THESE DATA FROM ST. LUCIAN LAWYER WORKING
FOR AMERADA HESS. LAWYER IS PROMINENT PERSONALITY ON ISLAND
IN HIS OWN RIGHT AND VERY CLOSE CONFIDANT OF
PREMIER COMPTON.

2. PROJECT CONSISTS ONLY OF TERMINAL AND REFINERY. APPEAR-
ANCE OF EARTHWORKS HAS LED TO RUMOR THAT AIR STRIP BEING
CONSTRUCTED. THIS FALSE.

3. VERY LITTLE OF PROJECT COMPLETED. ONLY EARTH-MOVING UNDER-
WAY. DESIGN WORK MAY FOLLOW IN NEXT 200 DAYS DEPENDING ON
PROGRESS IN LEVELING HILLS.

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4. TERMINAL OPEATION SHOULD BEGIN LATE 1979. MEANWHILE
CONSTRUCTION OF REFINERY WILL START AT POINT IN TIME
DETERMINED IN PART BY STATE OF MARKET.

5. CONSTRUCTION BY FISHER-HES, A JOINT VENTURE
BY RAY FISHER AND AMERADA HESS.

6. BESIDES FISHER AND HESS, ONLY OTHER FIRM INVOLVED IN MAJOR WORK IS ANOTHER JOINT VENTURE CALLED WILLIAMS-FISHER-HESS WHICH IS DOING QUARRYING, CONCRETE, AND ASPHALT WORK. WILLIAMS IS WELL-KNOWN BARBADIAN IN SAME LINE. CHICAGO BRIDGE AND IRON WILL SUPPLY TANKS. POSSIBILITY THAT FOSTER WHEELER WILL CONSTRUCT REFINERY.

7. THERE IS A CORPORATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HESS AND CONSTRUCTION FIRM BY WAY OF JOINT VENTURE DESCRIBED PARA 5.

8. HESS HAS SET UP CORPORATION IN ST. LUCIA CALLED HESS OIL ST. LUCIA LTD. THIS IS OWNING COMPANY.

9. HESS CONTROLS THIS CORPORATION 100 PERCENT.

10. CORPORATION IS THEREFORE WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF HESS.

11. GOVERNMENT OWNS NO SHARES IN CORPORATION. ACCORDING TO LAWYER, GOVERNMENT NEVER REQUESTED SHARES.

12. THERE ARE NO SUPPLIES OF GASOLINE OR DIESEL FUEL AVAILABLE FOR HESS ON ST. LUCIA. CONSUMPTION OF THESE PRODUCTS BY HESS IS GREATER THAN THAT OF ANY OTHER END USER ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISLAND. PRODUCTS ARE NOW BROUGHT IN BY BARGE FROM ST. CROIX AND TO LESSER EXTENT FROM TRINIDAD. AS FURTHER COMMENT, LAWYER BELIEVES THAT ST. LUCIA WILL REMAIN ATTRACTIVE SITE FOR HESS TO TRANSSHIP OIL TO U.S. DEEP WATER WILL ALLOW SUPER TANKERSTO DISCHARGE ONE-THIRD OF THEIR CARGO ALONGSIDE TERMINAL WHILE REMAINDER OF LOAD CAN THEN PROCEED TO ST. CROIX. IN LESS HEAVY STATE SHIPS COULD UNLOAD MORE ECONOMICALLY IN ST. CROIX WHERE WATER IS SHALLOW. MOREOVER LAWYER USED POINT THAT HESS ALREADY HAS 78 PERCENT OF HIS REFINERY CAPACITY LOCATED IN ST. CROIX AND WOULD LIKE TO SPREAD RISK BY MAINTAINING SITE IN ST. LUCIA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, REFINERIES, JOINT VENTURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRIDGE01004
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780159-0112
Format: TEL
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780467/aaaacerc.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: da3dd0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRIDGETOWN 957, 78 STATE 80269
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2998408
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OIL DEPOT AND REFINERY PROJECT, ST. LUCIA
TAGS: ENRG, ECRE, ST, AMERADA HESS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/da3dd0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014